

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 have been examined. Claims 17 and 20 are rejected, and the Examiner objects to claims 18 and 24. Claims 1-16, 19, 21-23 and 25-36 are allowed. New claims 37-40 are added in this Amendment.

35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Childers et al. (EP 878 307 [hereinafter "Childers"]). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are proper only when each element of the claimed subject matter is disclosed in the cited reference. Childers fails to teach or suggest each element of claims 17 and 20. Claim 17 is directed to a novel combination of elements that forms a new and unobvious ink cartridge. Claim 20 is directed to a novel combination of elements that forms a new and unobvious ink jet printer. These respective combinations are neither disclosed nor rendered obvious by Childers.

For example, and not by limitation, Childers does not disclose at least the recited positioning of the contact of the ink cartridge of claim 17; and the connecting members recited in claim 20. These aspects of the claims provide features that are not found in the applied prior art. In particular, the alleged contact (24) and connecting members (30) of Childers are not contained

on a side surface of the ink cartridge or cartridge accommodating portion of Figure 3, when the side surface is defined as being substantially parallel to an insertion direction in which an ink cartridge is inserted into the cartridge accommodating portion.

Consequently, Childers cannot anticipate claims 17 and 20, and the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS:

Applicant adds new claims 37-40. Claims 37 and 38 are added to obtain more varied protection for the invention. The features of the claims 37 and 38 also are not taught or suggested by Childers in light of their novel and unobvious combination of features.

Claim 39 incorporates the allowable features of claims 17 and 18. Claim 40 contains features similar to allowable claim 24, and depends from claim 39. Thus, as acknowledged by the Examiner in section 2 of the Office Action, these claims contain allowable features, and their allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If there are any points remaining in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. Serial No. 09/974,046

Art Unit 2861
Q66672

A Petition for Extension of Time and appropriate fee accompany this document. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all additional required fees (except the Issue Fee and/or the Publication Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

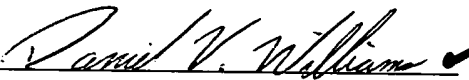
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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

17. (Amended) An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer, wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel, wherein each ink cartridge includes a contact that contacts one of connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion when the ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and wherein each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges,

wherein said contact of each ink cartridge is contained on a side surface of the ink cartridge, and

wherein the side surface of the ink cartridge is substantially parallel to an insertion direction in which said ink cartridge is inserted into said cartridge accommodating portion.

20. (Amended) An inkjet printer, comprising:

- a cartridge accommodating portion;
- a plurality of connecting members, which are formed in the cartridge accommodating portion;
- a plurality of ink cartridges, wherein the ink cartridges are detachably attached to the cartridge accommodating portion as aligned in parallel; and
- a contact, which is formed on each ink cartridge, wherein each contact contacts one of the connecting members when the associated ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges,

wherein said one of said connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion is contained on a side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion, and

wherein the side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion is substantially parallel to an insertion direction in which said ink cartridge is inserted into said cartridge accommodating portion.

New claims 37-40 are added.